

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

AID-05 IGA-01 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SAJ-01 /096 W

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R 250842Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2315J

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS LUSAKA 2091

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ELTN CH TZ ZA

SUBJECT: TAZARA RAILWAY INAUGURATED

REF: DAR 4806 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: SPEECHES BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA, TANZANIAN VICE PRESIDENT KAWAWA, AND CHINESE ENVOY WERE FEATURED DURING OCT 23 CEREMONY COMMEMORATING COMPLETION OF TANZAM RAILROAD (TAZARA). WHILE KAWAWA AND ZAMBIAN PRESS STRESSED NEED TO SAFEGUARD RAILWAY FROM SABOTAGE, KAUNDA EMPHASIZED THEMES OF TANZANIAN-ZAMBIAN COOPERATION AND CHINESE MORAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. CROWD ESTIMATED BY TIMES OF ZAMBIA AT OVER 20,000, AND BY DAILY MAIL AT HALF THAT NUMBER, INCLUDING GRZ OFFICIALS, STRONG REPRESENTATION OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS INCLUDING AMBASSADOR, AND SEVERAL THOUSAND CHINESE WORKMEN, ASSEMBLED AT KAPIRI MPOSHI, ZAMBIAN TERMINUS OF TAZARA, TO WITNESS PRESIDENT KAUNDA
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UNVEIL PLAQUE COMMEMORATING COMPLETION OF TRACK LAYING

ON THE PROJECT LAST JUNE 7. DAY BEFORE FIRST PASSENGER TRAIN TO INITIATE ENTIRE 47-HOUR, 1,852 KM TRIP TO DAR ES SALAAM HAD DEPARTED KAPIRI MPOSHI. ON HAND FOR CEREMONIES WAS TANZANIAN VICE PRESIDENT RASHID KAWAW, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, TWO TANU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER LUSINDE. PRINCIPAL SPEECHES WERE DELIVERED BY KAUNDA, KAWAWA, AND CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA LI YAO-WEN.

3. PRESIDENT KAUNDA CHOSE TO EMPHASIZE THEME OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA, REMARKING THAT WORK TOGETHER ON TAZARA, TAN-ZAM HIGHWAY AND PIPELINE, AND OTHER PROJECTS HAD MADE TWO COUNTRIES LIKE "SIAMESE TWINS". KAUNDA SAID IT PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY THAT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WAS BASED NOT ON COMMON HATRED OF SOME EXTERNAL ENEMY--A BOND THAT WOULD DISSOLVE ONCE ENEMY HAD BEEN ELIMINATED--BUT BY FEELINGS OF ONENESS AND COMMON PURPOSE. LIKewise, STRONG INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FRATERNAL RELATIONS ALREADY EXISTS AND IS FUNCTIONING BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE. KAUNDA PAID TRIBUTE TO MAO AND TO CHINESE PEOPLE FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE. SAID SIZE OF THIS ASSISTANCE WOULD HAVE BEEN EMBARRASSING TO ZAMBIA WERE IT NOT FOR CHINESE PEOPLE'S "CLEAN RECORD IN THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM." REMAINDER OF SPEECH DEVOTED TO REAFFIRMATION OF ZAMBIAN COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLES OF OPPOSITION TO RACIAL AND COLONIAL INJUSTICE IN SOTHERN AFRICA, A RESPONSIBILITY WHICH, KAUNDA SAID, ZAMBIA COULD NOT HAVE SHOULDERED WITHOUT CHINA'S "INVALUABLE" COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE.

4. KAWAWA SPEECH DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO WARNING PEOPLES OF TWO COUNTRIES TO BE ON LOOK-OUT FOR ENEMIES WHO WILL SEEK TO DESTROY TAZARA, BOTH PHYSICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY. HE STATED TAZANIA AND CHINA WOULD COME TO ZAMBIA'S AID IF SOME EXTERNAL FORCES TRIED TO SABOTAGE RAILWAY.

5. AMB LI SAID COMPLETION OF TAZARA HAD PROVED ERROR AND COMPLETE BANKRUPTCY OF IMPERIALIST PROPHETS OF DOOM AND GLOOM WHO HAD SAID IT COULD NOT BE DONE. FACTS HAVE SHOWN AFRICAN PEOPLES ARE FULLY CAPABLE OF BUILDING THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES INDEPENDENTLY ONCE FREE FROM IMPERIALISTIC SLAVERY AND DOMINATION. CHINA TREASURES ITS FRIENDSHIP WITH TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA IN FIGHT AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM.

6. FOLLOWING SPEECHES AS MANY AS WERE ABLE TO DO SO CROWEDED ABOARD CHINSE-BUILT PASSENGER CARS POWERED BY CHINESE DIESELS FOR BRIEF CEREMONIAL TRIP, DURING WHICH PRESIDENT LED ENTIRE TRAIN IN SINGING OF HIS FAVORITE SONG TAYENDI PAMODZI ("LET'S

WORK TOGETHER").

7. ALTHOUGH BOTH ZAMBIAN PAPERS PLAYED UP REFUSAL OF WESTERN COUNTRIES TO HELP CONSTRUCT TAZARA AND TIMES ALLEGED NEED TO PROTECT NEW RAIL LINK FROM CIA AS WELL AS FROM HOSTILE REGIMES IN SALISBURY AND PRETORIA, THIS THEME WAS MERCIFULLY IGNORED IN PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND NOT DWELT UPON BY OTHER SPEAKERS.

8. PRESS HERE HAD PUBLISHED SCHEDULES AND FARES FOR PASSENGER SERVICE BETWEEN KAPIRI MPOSHI AND DAR (BEING POUCHED). FREIGHT RATES SUPPOSEDLY GAZETTED BUT COPIES HAVE YET TO BE DISTRIBUTED. DURING OCT 23 CEREMONIES, ZAMBIAN MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS STATED SOME 12 MONTHS' CONSTRUCTION WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE ON LINE BY MIXED ZAMBIAN-TANZANIAN-CHINESE TEAMS.

9. UPON LEAVING TRAIN FROM TRIAL RUN OF HALF MILE DOWN TRACK, PRESIDENT KAUNDA, IN PRESENCE CHINESE AMBASSADOR FROM TANZANIA, MOVED ALONG LINE OF ASSEMBLED DIPLOMATS, INDIVIDUALLY THANKING THEM FOR THEIR "SUPPORT" IN BEING PRESENT AT CEREMONY.
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